

# Proposed COMAL Standard

## Use of Spaces

### Introduction

The inclusion of redundant spaces within a program can often improve readability. We therefore need to be able to specify where spaces are, or are not, significant.

### Proposal

Spaces will be treated as having no meaning and will be ignored, but retained, except:

a. at the start of a statement

- leading spaces typed in will be removed and lines automatically indented to indicate the program structure.

b. within reserved words

- entering a line such as

if  $a = s$  in  $(3\phi)$  then

should immediately generate an error

c. within identifiers

- an error should be generated

d. within string constants

- spaces within inverted commas should be treated in the same way as any other displayable character

e. between a procedure identifier and an unparenthesised parameter list

- at least one space is required

f. after all reserved words and identifiers (unless the next meaningful character is a character which is not allowed in an identifier)

- at least one space is required